

since that ghastly Christmas week. And we cannot do to these people what we did to my friend, David Jacobson, one of the hostages in the Iranian Embassy, excuse me, in the Lebanon hostage crisis, or what we did to the 52 people that it finally came down to in Iran, held in our embassy. We cannot try to cut deals behind the scenes to give them American taxpayer money out of our Treasury to make them shut up so they will not pursue legal redress in the international courts of this dangerous Earth.

I think it is time for all of us to come together and take direct action against this type of ghastly terrorist atrocity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we care about our young people, and contrary to what some believe, they care about themselves.

Most of our young people want to be positive and want to be productive.

Most of our young people want to join in the effort to begin to end the cycle of teenage pregnancy.

How can we begin to end the cycle of teenage pregnancy?

By insuring that our young people can get an education, can get a job, can have a career, can have a chance, and have confidence in themselves.

And, one of the best ways to achieve these important goals is to make sure that young people learn about the impact premature pregnancy has on the lives of those who face that problem.

Learning about the impact of premature pregnancy is important for boys too, not just girls.

All teenagers must take responsibility to prevent adolescent pregnancies.

Young people need to learn about school-based health clinics, health departments and other places where they and their parents can seek help and advice.

They need information on the physical and social effects of premature pregnancy.

Most importantly, our young people must learn about choices, how to make them, where they can lead and why it is important to postpone sexual involvement.

Congress has a responsibility to make sure our young people have real choices and a real chance.

There is currently a National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy. The goal of the campaign is to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy by one-third in 10 years.

That is an achievable goal.

That is a reasonable goal.

It is a campaign we can win.

It is a campaign we must win.

It is a campaign that all of us should join—young and old, male and female, rich and not so rich, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

Every 60 seconds in America, a child is born to a teen mother. The increase in teenage childbearing is alarming.

More than 30 percent of all out-of-wedlock births is to teenagers, below age 20.

We can not and must not ignore the reality that many young men and women are increasingly delaying marriage until their mid-twenties and beyond—but not sexual activity.

Because young men and women are becoming sexually experienced at younger ages without the benefit of marriage and sex education, there are proportionally more teenagers exposed to the risk of unmarried pregnancy and related health problems.

Sadly, according to a recent report to Congress, the young women and men who become teen parents have few expectations, few ties to community institutions, few adult mentors and role models, and too much spare time.

Too many live in communities where crime and drug use are common, where dropping out of school and chronic unemployment are even more common.

In my opinion these causes can be reduced to the lack of hope and confidence in the future by our teenagers.

Yet, our society can not endure this human burden.

We must, therefore, implement pregnancy prevention programs that educate and support school age youths and their family members, particularly those in high risk situations.

And, we must implement comprehensive social and health services, with an emphasis on pregnancy prevention.

Recently, this House refused to spend \$30 million, requested by the President, to help control and prevent the alarming growth of teenage pregnancies. Yet, we spend \$6.4 billion annually on programs once teenagers are pregnant and have children.

We will not spend one-half of 1 percent to prevent a problem that costs us more than 200 times that amount in the long run.

And what did this House do when faced with this illogical spending?

In the welfare reform bill that passed just last week, families that have additional children will be denied cash welfare payments.

And, unmarried children under the age of 18 who have a child will be denied cash welfare payments under certain conditions.

Why are some insisting upon punishing children rather than preventing pregnancies, especially among our adolescents?

Teen pregnancy is a near-certain predictor of poverty.

There is a connection with the fact that every 32 seconds a baby is born in poverty.

If all of the teenage mothers had been able to delay becoming pregnant until they were older and financially able to take care of a baby, the resources we use on them could be used in other productive ways—for education, for recreation programs, for jobs and job training, for housing, and for health services.

And, we should not forget that teen pregnancy is also a strong predictor of a new generation of disadvantage.

It should trouble each of us that America is first in the world in health technology, yet 18th in infant mortality.

This Nation is first in the world in defense expenditures, yet 19th in low-birthweight babies.

The actions and inactions of Congress in the weeks and months ahead will reflect the choice we have made for the future.

A choice between what is good for the many or good for a few—between communities that are average and those that are exceptional—between going forward or falling backwards—between individual comfort and functioning families.

And if our children are not able to contribute and are not able to properly and fully develop as adults, it will cost us more to respond to their dysfunctions than it will cost us to prevent them.

We can pay less now, Mr. Speaker, or we can pay more later.

We can construct a budget with a vision for the future, or we can destroy a budget with blindfolds of the past.

I urge my colleagues to look to the future.

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#### WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, there have been comments made in the last few days about the proposed reforms that the House passed and the Republicans have promoted. The comments have also dealt with the welfare reforms that we have passed might hurt children, and we have heard comments about some of our reforms in welfare that may in fact, the opinion of some folks, say that we may hurt children.

Mr. Speaker, I would not support legislation that would hurt our Nation's